

Towards a More Safe and Secure World

Connecting
People, Creating
Understanding



“If we are to turn the tides in the battle against organized crime and against drug traffickers, then we need to build cooperation and be innovative in our approaches. We in the United States believe that the rule of law has to be renewed every single day.”

— SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY

The U.S. Department of State's Towards a More Safe and Secure World initiative brings more than 70 judicial, law enforcement, and security officials to the United States each year to discuss and explore mutual threats to international peace and security, including narcotics trafficking, trafficking in persons, border security, money laundering, cyber security, wildlife trafficking, and terrorism.

Program Details

An initiative of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the Towards a More Safe and Secure World program is a three-week exchange for international participants to meet with their U.S. counterparts. The participants look at methods for upholding the rule of law, for leveraging partnerships, and also for defeating terrorism.

The initiative features a plenary in Washington, D.C. with top public and private sector security experts, jointly hosted by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. At the end of their program, the participants convene in New York City at the annual Combating International Crime: Global Cooperation Conference, co-hosted with the Federal Bureau of Investigation New York Field Office and the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues.

Following their meetings in Washington, D.C., program participants travel to small and mid-sized American cities to gain an understanding of public safety and security issues from state and local law enforcement officials, public officials, and social service and victim assistance providers. This program offers constructive opportunities for participants to meet and exchange ideas regarding the international challenges faced by law enforcement today.

Objectives

While in the United States, the participants:

- Examine the impact of international crime on the global economy;
- Survey the U.S. criminal justice system and review how principles are applied to international crime prosecution;
- Explore U.S. foreign policy priorities to build global cooperation against terrorism and other international crime;
- Examine ways to strengthen partnerships between community-based organizations and law enforcement officials;
- Address the issues of balancing law enforcement and security with civil liberties.



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